

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-18

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FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO AMEMBASSY FREETOWN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8592

C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 0588

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : OVIP PFOR MILI GV SL LI

SUBJECT : GUINEAN/ LIERRA LEONEAN/ LIBERIAN CHIEFS OF
STATE MEETING

REF: CONAKRY 0574

1. PRESIDENTS TOLBERT AND STEVENS LEFT CONAKRY AT 1700
APRIL 16 AMIDST RUMORS AND SPECULATION BUT NO HARD
FACTS CONCERNING DETAILS OF THEIR FOUR- HOUR MEETING
WITH PRESIDENT SEKOU TOURE. EARLY DEPARTURE OF
PRESIDENTS REMOVED ALL PRETENSE THAT GATHERING WAS
SIMPLY A " FRIENDLY" AND SOCIAL AFFAIR, BUT DID NOT
AFFECT BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS SINCE PLANNED LATE AFTER-
NOON AND EVENING ACTIVITIES WERE TO HAVE BEEN STRICTLY
SOCIAL IN NATURE. DIPLOMATIC CORPS WAS CALLED TO
FILL IN FOR DEPARTED PRESIDENTS IN SEVEN- BLOCK SOLIDARITY
MARCH WITH PRESIDENT SEKOU TOURE THROUGH STREETS OF
CONAKRY.

2. RADIO GUINEA REPORT OF OPENING STATEMENTS BY THREE
PRESIDENTS MADE POINT OF STRESSING EXPRESSION OF THANKS
BY PRESIDENTS TOURE AND TOLBERT TO SIKA STEVENS AS
PROMOTED OF THE MEETING. RADIO REPORT ON TOURE' S AND
STEVENS' OPENING STATEMENTS STRESSED UNITY AMONG THE
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THREE COUNTRIES AS AN IMPORTANT STEP IN BUILDING AFRICAN UNITY. STEVENS ALSO MENTIONED CONTRIBUTION WHICH HE THOUGHT GUINEAN EXPERIENCE COULD MAKE IN THIS REGARD. HOWEVER, PRESIDENT TOLBERT'S REMARKS ONLY NOTED THAT BASIS OF UNITY IS SOLIDARITY OF ACTION. DISCUSSIONS WHICH FOLLOWED OPENING STATEMENTS REPORTEDLY CHARACTERIZED BY COMPLETE UNDERSTANDING. ALL MEMBERS GUINEAN POLITICAL BUREAU AND CENTRAL COMMITTEE PARTICIPATED ON GUINEAN SIDE, WHILE SIERRA LEONEAN DELEGATION INCLUDED MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEVELOPMENT, PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND INFORMATION; AND LIBERIAN DELEGATION INCLUDED MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, PLAN AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, AND DEFENSE.

3. COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF GUINEAN POLITICAL PARTY STATED THAT PRESIDENTS DISCUSSED AFRICAN PROBLEMS IN GENERAL AND PROBLEMS CONCERNING THEIR THREE COUNTRIES IN PARTICULAR. ADDED THAT " IN FACE OF SUBVERSIVE MANEUVERING BY IMPERIALIST POWERS AND THEIR AGENTS", THE CHIEFS OF STATE REAFFIRMED SOLIDARITY AND WILL FOR UNITY OF ACTION. THEY AGREED MAKE COMMON EFFORTS IN ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE AREAS TO GUARANTEE SOVEREIGNTY OF THEIR PEOPLE, INDEPENDENCE OF THEIR NATIONS AND SECURITY OF THEIR STATES, AND TO CONCRETIZE BASIS OF A RATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR UNITY OF ACTION OF SIERRA LEONEAN, LIBERIAN AND GUINEAN PEOPLES. THEY REAFFIRMED DETERMINATION IN INCREASE SUPPORT FOR LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN AFRICA AND TO WORK FOR AFRICAN UNITY.

4. AS USUAL, COMMUNIQUE AND PUBLIC REPORTS PROVIDE VERY LITTLE HARD INFORMATION ABOUT WHAT ACTUALLY OCCURRED. HOWEVER, PUBLICITY GIVEN TO FACT THAT STEVENS WAS PROMOTER OF MEETING, WOULD LEND WEIGHT TO VIEW THAT MAIN PURPOSE WAS FOR STEVENS TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR SUPPORT IN CASE OF NEED SHOULD THINGS BEGIN TO TURN AGAINST HIM IN FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS.
TODMAN

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